

Alabama Chapter

INCORPORATED IN ALABAMA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



19 S. Jackson St.
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334/954-2543
Fax: 334/269-5200
E-mail: llee@alaap.org
<http://www.alaap.org>

October 6, 2020

Dear Medical Provider:

Subject: Best Practice – Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program

Hearing loss is the most common birth defect in the United States. Each year in Alabama, approximately 100 infants are born with hearing loss. Delayed diagnosis and/or untreated hearing loss results in delayed development in speech, language, learning, and social/emotional development. It also negatively impacts learning.

Officers

President

L. Katrina Skinner, MD, FAAP
19087-B Greeno Road
Fairhope, AL 36532
251/928-5568
Fax: 251/928-2605
katski@bellsouth.net

Vice President

Nola Jean Ernest, MD, PhD, FAAP
526 Boll Weevil Circle
Enterprise, AL 36330
334/308-1166
Fax: 334/308-1019
nola.ernest@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Elizabeth N. Dawson, MD, FAAP
1300 US Hwy 231 S
Troy, AL 36081-3058
334/566-7600
Fax: 334/566-9181
nelso71@hotmail.com

Immediate Past President

Andrew W. Stubblefield, MD,
MPH, FAAP
421 W College Street
Florence, AL 35630
256/764-9522
Fax: 256/764-1139
stubblefield.wes@gmail.com

Executive Director

Linda P. Lee, APR

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) EHDI goals include:

- Ensure every infant and child with hearing loss is diagnosed and receives appropriate, timely intervention.
- Enhance pediatricians' knowledge about EHDI 1-3-6 guidelines – screening by 1 month of age, diagnosis of hearing loss by 3 months of age, and entry into early intervention (EI) by 6 months of age.
- NICU infants admitted for more than five days are required to have auditory brainstem response (ABR) included as part of their screening so that neural hearing loss will not be missed.
- Enhance pediatricians' knowledge of the risk factors for hearing loss and appropriate follow-up to identify delayed onset or acquired hearing loss as soon as possible.
- Ensure newborn hearing screening results are communicated to all parents and reported in a timely fashion according to state laws.
- Ensure middle ear effusion does not delay a hearing loss diagnosis since it has the potential to further compromise hearing.

Health care providers can offer important support for children and their families by encouraging parents to have their children's hearing, speech, language, behavior, and academic progress carefully monitored. We encourage you to implement best practice guidelines endorsed by the AAP, Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Alabama Department of Public Health. Should you have any questions please contact the Alabama EHDI Coordinator at (334) 358-2082 or visit the AAP EHDI website at <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/PEHDIC/Pages/Early-Hearing-Detection-and-Intervention.aspx>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KBradham".

Kari A. Bradham, DO, FAAP
AAP EHDI Chapter Champion

Enclosure